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RELEASE OF CUBANS NEAR

RANSOM DEAL UNDER WAY IN HAVANA TALKS

Optimism Rises for Prisoners

BY JULES DUBOIS
(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

Miami, Oct. 6—Negotiations in Havana today were nearing what Cuban exiles here were confident would be a successful conclusion for the release of more than 1,000 prisoners of the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion of April, 1961, in exchange for 62 million dollars worth of food and medicines from the United States.

Members of the Cuban families' prisoners committee here said they had received no word from Havana but expressed optimism that Premier Fidel Castro must have made the deal with James B. Donovan, New York attorney, in a seven hour conference yesterday.

Enrique Llaca, a member of the families' committee, told me that the committee expects to receive confirmation of the release agreement from Donovan tomorrow or Monday.

Llaca's son is one of the prisoners.

Calm Exile Hysteria

Llaca said that the committee issued a statement which was broadcast over Spanish language radio stations here to calm the hysteria that had swept the exile colony. Families flocked to the International airport, to the Homestead air force base 20 miles away, and to Opa Locka, former naval air station, in North Miami, expecting the welcome the released prisoners.

The statement informed the Cubans that Donovan had told the representatives of the families' committee here when he left for Havana last Wednesday that it would take a week for the negotiations to be concluded. The statement pointed out that the week does not expire until Tuesday, and requested all Cubans to be patient.

Dr. Jose Miro-Cardona, president of the Cuban Revolutionary council, said upon his return from Washington today that the only light he could add was that he had heard rumors that the prisoners' release might begin within 72 hours. His son, Jose Miro-Torra, is one of the prisoners.

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